

## Senate Resolution 33

By: Senators Balfour of the 9th, Unterman of the 45th, Shafer of the 48th, Harp of the 29th, Thompson of the 5th and others

**ADOPTED**

## A RESOLUTION

Approving the creation of a new four-year college in Gwinnett County by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph I(b) of the Constitution of the State of Georgia grants to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia the exclusive authority to create new public colleges, junior colleges, and universities in the State of Georgia, subject to approval by majority vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the University System of Georgia has established an entity known as the Gwinnett University Center, located in Lawrenceville, Georgia, as a consortium of the University of Georgia, Georgia Perimeter College, Southern Polytechnic State University, and the Medical College of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Gwinnett University Center offers both graduate and undergraduate courses, and with its aggressive growth has enrolled approximately 8,000 students in Fall 2004, an increase of 124 percent over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Gwinnett County's burgeoning population creates a demand for access, which the University System of Georgia wishes to provide, in that Gwinnett County has 676,000 residents and its population is expected to reach 1 million by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Gwinnett County has the largest school system in the state and already accounts for 10 percent of Georgia's economy; and

WHEREAS, the board of regents has determined that a four-year state college with its own leadership will better meet the higher education needs of the citizens of Gwinnett County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, it has been deemed by the board of regents to be in the best interest of the state to create a free-standing four-year college in Gwinnett County as the 35th unit of the University System of Georgia near the location of the Gwinnett University Center; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph I(b) of the Constitution provides that approval of both houses of the General Assembly is required for the creation of a new public college.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that, pursuant to Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph I(b) of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, this body approves the creation of a new four-year college in Gwinnett County by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.